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DD/S 63-1548

Executive Registry  
*63-2912/1*

17 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of Executive Committee

SUBJECT : Future Housing of CIA Units

In attempting to comply with Action Memorandum No. 217, it is fundamental to decide first the question of the location of the Clandestine Services. Kirk advises me that this will be the subject to be discussed at a special Executive Committee Meeting on Friday, 19 April. I am attaching hereto Mr. Dulles's memorandum of 21 August 1961 to McGeorge Bundy which may be helpful in preparing your thoughts for the discussion on Friday.

[Redacted Signature Box]

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L. K. White  
Deputy Director  
(Support)

2 attachments

Att 1: Mr. Dulles's memorandum

Att 2: Action Memorandum No. 217

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

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*217*  
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GROUP 1  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DOWNGRADING AND  
DECLASSIFICATION

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ER-61-6810

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21 August 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable McGeorge Bundy  
Special Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : CIA Occupancy of the New Building  
in McLean, Virginia (Recommendation  
by the President's Foreign Intelligence  
Advisory Board of 18 July, 1961)

In your memorandum of July 24 you transmitted to me for comment, before its submission to the President, the following recommendation of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board in its report to the President of 18 July 1961:

"The Board recommends that action should be taken at the earliest possible date to assure that the Central Intelligence Agency's plans for the occupancy of the new building in McLean, Virginia are feasible. (We believe there are valid questions that may be raised about these plans. In particular, there are questions about moving all of the clandestine activities into the building. We recommend accordingly that these plans be reviewed administratively, and that a feasibility study be made as to the possibility of housing all of the clandestine functions, or some part thereof, in another place. We believe it may be appropriate to house in the new building some of the non-clandestine functions of the Central Intelligence Agency which are now scheduled to be relocated to other buildings in Washington)".

The points which the Board has raised in this recommendation affect a very important phase of the work of C.I.A., and I wish, at the outset, to assure you that the feasibility of our planned occupancy of the new building has been thoroughly considered and under constant review since the building program was initiated more than ten years ago.

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My comments on the Board's recommendations fall into two general categories; first, the practical problem with which we are faced today as regards the relocation of our personnel; second, the question of tradecraft in the field of our clandestine functions.

I.

Since 1951 the Agency has been planning the construction of a building which would house the major part of our headquarters personnel. This project was initiated after careful consideration of the security and other factors involved in this procedure. The original decision to proceed was reached by General Walter Bedell Smith, who was then Director, at a time when, as now, our activities were scattered among some 30 buildings, for the most part of temporary construction.

In presenting the matter to the Congress at that time, the security risks involved in transporting classified documents between buildings and the physical insecurity of the temporary buildings themselves were stressed, as well as the economy and efficiency of operations from a single headquarters building. As a result of this presentation, the Congress on 28 September 1951, passed an authorizing measure for \$38 million.

Due to a technicality, the appropriating action failed of passage and it was not until 1 July 1955, after a site had been selected and approved by the appropriate authorities, that the President renewed the request to the Congress for the necessary legislation. On 4 August 1955 the Congress appropriated funds for the preparation of plans and specifications and in 1956, the Congress appropriated the funds to complete the building and the access highways.

As the printed hearings before the Senate Appropriations Committee evidence, the entire question of the security of the Agency's operations was gone into in great detail. The pros and cons of the location of our headquarters clandestine services personnel in one building, which we in the Agency had been studying for many years, were carefully considered by the members of Congress directly concerned. It was clearly the understanding of the Congress in making the appropriation for our headquarters that these personnel would be included in the new building.

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/s/

ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

cc: The President's Foreign Intelligence  
Advisory Board

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: DDCI		<i>4/20/63</i>
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS:		
<p><i>Doi Gridday</i></p> <p><i>EA - CU</i></p> <p><i>DCI would be interested in Dulles memo attached</i></p> <p><i>4/20/63</i></p>		
FROM: DD/S		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION
<p>FORM NO. 241 1 FEB 55</p> <p>REPLACES FORM 36-8 WHICH MAY BE USED.</p> <p>GPO : 1957-O-439445 (47)</p>		